

AIDS TO CLINICAL PATHOLOGY. By D. Haler, M.B., B.S., D.C.P. 2nd ed. (Pp. viii+398; 22 figs. 8s. 6d.). London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1951.

THIS little book contains a miscellany of useful information on a great variety of subjects, all of which are of immediate interest to the practical clinical pathologist. It includes in its 382 pages, besides chapters on the major branches of clinical pathology (post-mortem technique and the preparation of histological sections, bacteriology, serology, hæmatology and biochemistry) sections on cytology and parasitology. So clearly are the methods laid out in this book that it could be used as a useful laboratory manual.

Although no book which attempts such a wide field in such a small compass can be without some blemish I think that this book has succeeded in its aim most admirably. I particularly liked the general points on p. 376 viz. :—

"If a test is worth carrying out, it is worth recording and reporting in writing. Never keep the results of laboratory tests as a dark secret between yourself and your incubator; share your pleasure in a result with the clinician in charge of the case.

"Do not expect approbation from some clinicians, many of whom desire only acquiescence with and confirmation of their views."

M. G. M.

THE BRITISH ENCYCLOPÆDIA OF MEDICAL PRACTICE: MEDICAL PROGRESS, 1951. Edited by the Rt. Hon. Lord Horder, G.C.V.O., M.D., F.R.C.P. (Pp. 446 + x + 30. 30s.). London: Butterworth, 1951.

THIS book consists of three parts. The first covers 139 pages and in its 14 chapters leading specialists present the major advances in medicine, surgery and midwifery in the last few years. Dr. Charles Hill writes on the National Health Service. Social medicine, reviewed by Dr. Alice Stewart, and genetics, reviewed by Professor L. S. Penrose, are newcomers to this survey of progress in medicine. All these articles present up-to-date information and are supplemented by adequate references. In part 2 the late Professor Dilling has contributed a brief, but valuable, survey of advances in pharmacology and therapeutics recorded up to the middle of 1950. Part III consists of abstracts arranged under headings similar to those in the encyclopædia and with cross references to the encyclopædia and to its cumulative supplement. Much information is presented and the abstracting is competently done, but the lack of critical comment and the mediocre quality of many of the papers thus presented limits the value of this portion of the book for the busy practitioner, who requires authoritative information similar to that presented in the encyclopædia itself.

CHIROPODIAL ORTHOPÆDICS. By Franklin Charlesworth. (25s.). Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone, 1951.

THOUGH the title of this monograph is indigestible its contents are extremely appetizing especially to those working in an orthopædic service, be they surgeons, after-care sisters or workshop technicians.

The author concerns himself with the relief of pain in many conditions of the foot by the use of appliances made from latex, leather, rubber, cork compound and metal. He stresses the necessity of individual design of these mechanical appliances and so he goes into considerable detail in the chapter on "casting" of the feet. And this is but right since it is on the individual cast that the various appliances, shields or insoles will be made, and the patient's comfort will greatly depend on the standard of accuracy of the "positive foot cast."

The chapter on shoes and shoe alterations is clear and concise and the book ends by describing the Chiropody Unit of Hope Hospital, Salford, the first of its kind in England.

Since it has taken many years of trial for the author to produce the devices he uses to-day in chiropodial work it is fitting that his techniques should now reach a wider public and it is believed that this monograph will do just that.

R. J. W. W.